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| |  | | --- | | **As I Grew Older**  **By Langston Hughes** | |  |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | It was a long time ago. I have almost forgotten my dream. But it was there then, In front of me, Bright like a sun-- My dream. And then the wall rose, Rose slowly, Slowly, Between me and my dream. Rose until it touched the sky-- The wall. Shadow. I am black. I lie down in the shadow. No longer the light of my dream before me, Above me. Only the thick wall. Only the shadow. My hands! My dark hands! Break through the wall! Find my dream! Help me to shatter this darkness, To smash this night, To break this shadow Into a thousand lights of sun, Into a thousand whirling dreams Of sun! | |

**Questions**

1. Identify one metaphor used in this poem
2. What is one idea that the poet is trying to express in this poem?
3. Explain why the author may have decided to entitle the poem “As I Grew Older”
4. Explain what the relationship is between the poet’s dream and the image of the wall?
5. What do you think you can tell about the poet and his life from this poem. Be specific and refer to the poem to support your points.
6. What is the message that the poet wants us to go away with after reading the poem? What is some evidence that makes you certain of this?
7. Explain the significance of the symbolism of light and dark in this poem.
8. Explain how this poem links to one of the other poems you have read

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| |  | | --- | | **If We Must Die**  **By Claude McKay** | |  |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | If we must die, let it not be like hogs Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot, While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs, Making their mock at our accursèd lot. If we must die, O let us nobly die, So that our precious blood may not be shed In vain; then even the monsters we defy Shall be constrained to honor us though dead! O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe! Though far outnumbered let us show us brave, And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow! What though before us lies the open grave? Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack, Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!  **Questions**   1. What are two things about this poem that let us know it is a sonnet? 2. Who are the monsters referred to in the poem? 3. For what reason does McKay say even a doomed resistance is worthwhile? 4. Identify and explain ONE metaphor used in the poem. 5. What is it about ‘hogs’ that makes the poet say that we should not be like them? 6. Why do you think the poet is urging his comrade to fight? 7. The poet seems to be suggesting that it is good to die for a cause. What evidence in the poem makes me say that? 8. What do you think about the idea that it is possible to kill others in the name of a just cause? Explain your thoughts. | |